

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT M 00992 290736Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
/077 W

-----084036 300929Z /17

R 290510Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3426
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0992

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PP
SUBJECT: BY-ELECTION RESULTS: KIKI BID FAILS

1. SUMMARY: FORMER PANGU MINISTERS KIKI AND REA WERE DEFEATED IN CLOSE RACES IN MORESBY NORTH-EAST AND MORESBY NORTH-WEST BY-ELECTIONS BY PAPUA BESENA CANDIDATES. IN ANOTHER RECENT BY-ELECTION IN INTERIOR, A UNITED PARTY MAN RECAPTURED HIS SEAT. RESULTS, WHICH GIVE OPPOSITION NET GAIN OF ONE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT, TURNED UP NO SURPRISES. END SUMMARY.

2. PAPUA BESENA CANDIDATE MAKURU RARUA RARUA WON JUNE 24-26 BY-ELECTION FOR HIS OLD MORESBY NORTH-WEST SEAT. A CLOSE SECOND WAS PANGU CANDIDATE AND FORMER MINISTER GAVERA REA.

3. PAPUA BESENA ALSO CAPTURED MORESBY NORTH-EAST SEAT VACATED WHEN PANGU POLICE MINISTER PATERSON LOWA WAS FOUND TO HAVE FAILED TO MEET RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT. GOASA DAMENA APPARENTLY DEFEATED EX-FONMIN SIR MAORI KIKI BY 17 VOTES. RECOUNT UNDERWAY. LOWA RAN A POOR FIFTH AMONG SEVEN CANDIDATES.

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4. BAIYER-MUL OPEN BY-ELECTION OF MAY 20 - JUNE 3 WAS WON BY MEK NUGENTS WHO HELD THE SEAT FOR UNITED PARTY 72-76.

5. COMMENT: RESULTS BRING NET GAIN OF ONE NEW SEAT TO OPPOSITION BUT DO NOT SIGNIFY ANY NEW OR SIGNIFICANT TRENDS. ALTHOUGH PAPUA BESENA LOST CONTROL OF PORT

MORESBY CITY GOVERNMENT TO A LABOR/INDEPENDENT COALITION
IN MAY, IT REMAINS A POWER ON THIS SIDE OF ISLAND AND
A PAPUA BESENA VICTORY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A SURPRISE.

6. BOTH UNITED PARTY AND NEWLY-FORMED OPPOSITION,
PEOPLES UNITED FRONT, CLAIM TO HAVE SUPPORT FROM NUGENTS
WHO IS YET TO BE HEARD FROM. HOWEVER, TALKS ARE UNDERWAY
BETWEEN UP AND PUF WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING TALKS
WITH A VIEW TO JOINING FORCES AS A RE-UNIFIED OPPOSITION.
WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN SOLOMON ISLANDS PRESS OF
BUSINESS SUBSIDES.
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Subject: BY-ELECTION RESULTS: KIKI BID FAILS
TAGS: PINT, PP
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